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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/545,162	04/07/2000	ANTHONY P. SHUBER	EXT-026	1013
30623	7590	01/04/2005	EXAMINER	
MINTZ, LEVIN, COHN, FERRIS, GLOVSKY AND POPEO, P.C. ONE FINANCIAL CENTER BOSTON, MA 02111			SWITZER, JULIET CAROLINE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1634	

DATE MAILED: 01/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

The application has been amended to make the abstract a single paragraph. The text of the abstract has not changed. The abstract is now as follows:

The invention provides methods for screening tissue or body fluid samples for nucleic acid indicia of cancer or precancer. Methods are provided for screening a patient for cancer or precancer by detecting the presence of nucleic acid fragments that are longer than nucleic acid fragments expected to be present in a sample obtained from a healthy individual. In one embodiment, a positive screen for cancer or precancer is identified when a patient tissue or body fluid sample comprising exfoliated cells or cellular debris contains an amount of nucleic acid of a length greater than about 200 base pairs that exceeds a predetermined amount.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Juliet C Switzer whose telephone number is (571) 272-0753. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, W. Gary Jones can be reached by calling (571) 272-0745.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571)272-0507.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Juliet C. Switzer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Juliet C. Switzer
Examiner
Art Unit 1634

December 23, 2004